

eight years of service, are told in fourteen chapters, perhaps the most interesting in the book. One can easily believe that there were grave head-shakings over the breaking up of the old society and the inauguration of the new Board of Education. For valedictory of the former we quote an extract from the Annual Report for 1853: "Thus by voluntary surrender terminated the separate corporate existence of a society that, during nearly half a century of unremitted and unrequited philanthropic labor in the noblest of causes, imposed upon this city a debt of gratitude that can never be fitly estimated, much less repaid. During that period it has conferred the blessing of instruction on six hundred thousand children, and more than twelve hundred teachers. So long as the influence of those children and their teachers shall be felt—and when shall it cease?—so long shall the usefulness of the Public School Society continue. Its inventories, vouchers, documents and reports, and records of its routine of business have been properly deposited with the New York Historical Society, but history can never tell how much these unostentatious details have contributed to the safety, prosperity, and glory of this great metropolitan city."

The new Board of Education is still with us, and if we may judge by passing events may not even yet have reached its full growth, albeit its proportions are very grand, and very different to those of its earlier days; each year adds something to the nobility of the public school institution; now it is the vacation school, now nurses in the public school, or the wise taking of women into committees and upon the board. There are the playgrounds, the free lectures and classes—there is seemingly no end to the variety of the benefits it has brought or promises to bring.

The closing words of Mr. Seth Low's introduction make a fitting summing-up of this brief review:

"This 'Centennial History of the New York Public School' cannot fail to awaken a sense of pride in our citizens and a profound sense of gratitude towards all who have taken part in making our public-school system what it is; and especially to the great army of teachers, the dead and the living, who have wrought and are now working their lives into it year by year. The New York City of to-day is very largely their handiwork; and the New York that is to be will be more largely indebted to them than to any other single factor that will influence its history."

THE HUMAN HAIR: ITS CARE AND PRESERVATION. By I. R. Stetson, M.Sc. New York: The Maple Publishing Company.

This favorite subject for filling in the odd column in magazines and Sunday papers is here treated most completely; and if one gathers from a careful perusal of the book the somewhat discouraging fact that one

must needs begin at birth, or as soon after as possible, to guard against evils which overtake one towards the end of life, still, we should welcome truth, no matter how distasteful. We are told the truth too about some time-honored remedies for baldness, and agents for promoting thick and luxuriantly glossy ringlets, for tempting forth the incipient mustache, and causing eyelashes as long as pot-hooks, and one gasps at learning that "Macassar oil" fails to stand up under analysis, but reveals itself as plain, ordinary castor-oil cunningly disguised. Under the head of "influence of general health on the hair" we have an excellent little treatise on hygiene, and there is perfectly sane advice on the treatment of the scalp when it is invaded by actual disease, as dandruff, etc. There is a device as to becoming dressing of the hair, and it must be confessed that here the author is scarce master of his subject, or, if he is better informed than he seems to be, at least his taste is not popular. The book closes with directions for changing the color of the hair, dyeing, bleaching, etc.: the author frankly states his disapproval, but states also that since "these are customs which have come down to us from time immemorial and which will doubtless continue to flourish to a greater or less extent until the human race succumbs or is regenerated, those persons who are tempted or feel obliged to avail themselves of their aid should be instructed and informed concerning the best means of accomplishing their desire, the dangers and inconveniences which attend the process, and the results which may be expected—which, we may say, even at the best, are always, to the observant eye, more or less artificial in their appearance." After which the author proceeds to give the most minute instructions for making one's hair any color in the whole range that it does not happen to be.

COUNTY AND CITY CARE OF CONSUMPTIVES: SOME METHODS OF HOUSING. Published by the Committee on the Prevention of Tuberculosis of the Charity Organization Society, New York City.

An illustrated pamphlet giving drawings and cost of construction of a number of different kinds of houses, tents, cottages, and shacks to be used in the outdoor treatment of tuberculosis patients. A little book full of valuable suggestions to institutions or individuals who are studying this problem.



MORE than one hundred thousand copies of Florence Nightingale's "Notes on Nursing" are said to have been sold.